

**Commission on Disability Concerns  
Mayor's Awards Committee  
Meeting Minutes, April 3, 2008  
3:30 p.m.**

**Tempe Public Library,  
3500 So. Rural Road, Tempe AZ**

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Paul Bennewitz, Janie Shelton, Irene Mochel, Larry Randall, Emma Bordner

**Staff Present:**

Karl Stephens, ADA Compliance Specialist

**Guests present:**

Rich Nolan, former Commission Chair, and Liz Babbitt, Workbridge Teacher and TUHSD Vocational Services Coordinator

1. Meeting called to order at 3:37 p.m. by Commissioner Paul Bennewitz
2. Review of the following Awards Event areas; assignments:
  - **Event Date** – April 30, 2008 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
  - **Speaker** – Mr. Luis Ross of Phoenix
  - **Food and Facility** – Tempe Center for the Arts (TCA), Lakeside Room.
  - **Public Relations** – The Tempe Community Council staff Emma Bordner will assume the role for sending out the press releases and for calling previous Diablos organization contact(s) regarding the Scholarship checks and Diablos participation at the Awards event.
  - **Plaques and Certificates** – The Tempe Diablos will again provide Scholarships for the award winners, while the City of Tempe will provide the plaques and certificates.
  - **Registration and Printed Programs** – Tempe Community Council will provide the registration forms and programs as in years past.

- **Nominations** – Commission members were notified during the January 15 and the February 19, 2008 meetings to send nominations for all awards to the staff liaison by Close of Business March 28, 2008 for consideration on April 3, 2008 by the Awards Committee.

Ms. Babbitt came to the meeting in lieu of Vanessa Anspach. She brought the Student Employee Award's information for this year's winners. Nine names were submitted to the Committee. A tenth name was submitted as an alumnus of the High School District who was mistakenly not given an award last year. To correct that error, the Committee decided to give him an Alumnus of the Year Award at this year's event.

Awards were also designated for a City of Tempe Parks and Recreation Department staff member for the Employee of the Year Award, and for the Employer of the Year Award to a local Petsmart Store management team that has trained a number of student volunteers with disabilities and ultimately gone on to hire several of them.

Mr. Nolan spoke to the Committee on behalf of awarding the posthumous "Pride of the City Award" to Mr. Michael Franjevic, longtime Tempe resident and tireless disability access community advocate. Mr. Nolan shared some personal information regarding Mr. Franjevic's career as a meteorologist with the federal government, as well as his many years working on behalf of the disability community to improve the transportation system and the removal of many types of manmade barriers to equal access. He worked to provide disability sensitivity training for many groups of new City bus drivers. We also learned of Mr. Franjevic's untiring devotion to overcoming some community resistance and obstacles on both sides that threatened to kill the bicycle/pedestrian/wheelchair bridge over Hwy. 60 at Country Club Way. Ultimately he was successful in his mediation efforts and the project was completed.

There was discussion about ways to publicize the Awards in the community to be able to receive more nominations for next year's program.

Emma Bordner will send the information regarding the award winners to the Diversity Department so that the plaques can be ordered.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Prepared by: Karl Stephens

/s/ Karl W. Stephens  
Staff Liaison, ADA Compliance Specialist